



Commission on Volunteers

Office of the Lieutenant Governor



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Governor Walker Honored for Service to Utah's Youth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Salt Lake City, October 21, 2004 - Governor Olene Walker will be presented with the 2004 Utah's Promise Red Wagon Award during a ceremony to be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 21 - the seventh anniversary of Utah's Promise - at the State Office Building on Capitol Hill. The Utah's Promise Red Wagon Award, sponsored by the Utah Commission on Volunteers, honors individuals and groups dedicated to keeping Utah's Promise.

In October 1997, Governor Walker was instrumental, along with former Governor Michael O. Leavitt, in starting Utah's Promise, a grass roots effort to bring five specific, research-based "Promises" or resources, to youth throughout the State of Utah. Over the past seven year history of Utah's Promise, Gov. Walker has helped link thousands of youth with the Five Promises including caring adults in the life of every child; safe places to learn and grow; healthy starts in life; marketable skills; and opportunities to serve and give back to their communities.

Governor Walker's specific involvement is recognized in increasing the number of trained foster-care families and volunteers in mentoring programs; in creating safe neighborhood councils throughout the state; decreasing the number of low-birth weight babies born in Utah and the number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); raising the level of literacy among thousands of children through her Read With A Child and other literacy initiatives; and increasing the number of youth who volunteer in their communities.

Utah's Promise was created as a statewide response to America's Promise, an initiative led by its founding Chair, Retired General Colin Powell. Every year since it's founding, annual Utah's Promise Red Wagon Awards have been distributed to individuals and organizations who show an outstanding commitment to fulfilling Utah's Promise. To learn more about Utah's Promise or the Red Wagon Award, contact the Utah Commission on Volunteers at www.volunteers.utah.gov or 1-888-755-UTAH.

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